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MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

FINAL EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 3, 2016 / 2017

PEN0055 – ESSENTIAL ENGLISH
(All Groups)

1 JUNE 2017
2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
(2 Hours)

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENT

1. This question paper consists of **FIVE** printed pages.
2. Answer **ALL** questions in **Sections A and B**. Answer only **ONE** question in **Section C**.
3. Please write all your answers in the Answer Booklet provided.

SECTION A: READING AND VOCABULARY [26 MARKS]

Instructions: Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

The World's Happiest Country?

- 1 Colombians live for celebrations. The South American country has more 1
festivals than days of the year, and whether it is the multiday festivities of Carnival
in Barranquilla or Caribbean coastal residents dressing their donkeys in drag and
parading them down the streets during the Festival de Burro, there is always a party
to be had. This is just one of the many reasons an annual Gallup International poll 5
ranks Colombia as one of the happiest countries in the world.
- 2 The celebrations continue despite Colombia's sordid past. Most outsiders
know the South American nation as a country steeped in violence, with 50 years of
civil war, as a place where cases of kidnappings by left-wing rebels and right-wing
guerrillas were routine, and as the land of cocaine and drug traffickers. However, the 10
situation seems to be improving, and on the eve of a shaky potential peace deal
between the government and the country's largest guerrilla group, the FARC, it
seems appropriate to understand how residents have maintained their renowned
happiness in the face of unimaginable atrocity, loss and economic hardship.
- 3 Ask 100 Colombians about happiness, and you will likely get 100 variations 15
on a similar theme. "Money is nice, but it's not the most important thing," "In
general, we are a culture that values what we have," and "We love people and music"
were just some of the responses I got. You see evidence of this *value system* every
day. It is in the welcoming spirit Colombians show to the rapidly increasing numbers
of foreign tourists, and this goodwill extends to people in their own country as well. 20
- 4 Of course Colombia has had its share of homegrown violence and terror; no
other country in South America has endured such a long period of conflict. However,
this is something that Oscar Gilede, a biologist who leads nature treks via his
Colombian Highlands tour company, believes is integral to their notion of happiness.
"I think that Colombians generally feel happy, and the perception of happiness is 25
subjective. I mean, it's clear that a country which has lived with war for the last 50
years should see very low rates of happiness," he said. Like many Colombians, war
has come close to Gilede's doorstep. His brother was a military guard who was killed
by M19 guerrillas. However, he continued, "that same reason for endless war means
Colombians have become indifferent to situations of war. In other words, if the 30
problem does not touch me directly, I must feel grateful, satisfied, optimistic, and
lucky."
- 5 Rodrigo Martínez, a historian at the University of Antioquia, agrees,
explaining that although Colombians have yet to achieve peace and stability, they
continue to strive for it with unshakable resolve. "Colombians have always 35
demonstrated incredible, Herculean and powerful resilience to war, death, violence
and diplomatic failures," he told me.
- 6 Gilede believes that Colombians feed this resilience through human
connections and communal experience. "We live for parties and holidays; we fill the
void with a fanaticism for sporting events, beauty pageants and entertainment, to the 40
point that the moment one event ends, we're already thinking about the next." One

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activity Colombians never seem to stop thinking about is dance. Salsa is the country's musical pulse, and nearly everyone dances it, especially in Cali, a pleasant but unassuming city in southern Colombia's fertile Cauca Valley. It is the mecca for salsa dancing. The world championships are held here annually, and the city is home to the country's most famous Salsa clubs. 45

7 "The dance frees you. It is a way of expression and feeling. Here, the music is carried in the blood, in the veins, and in our heart. It's a great passion we carry throughout our lives," said Nhora Tovar, the owner of Cali's Arrebato Caleño salsa school. Colombian salsa, as opposed to other forms, is denoted by faster rhythms that match the people's natural energy. It is an open genre, accessible to everyone, and it seems to make the entire country happy. However, is it a different experience than in other countries, for instance, the Brazilians and their Samba dance? "I think there are several differences," Tovar said. "Our dance is much more sociable. It's necessary to dance salsa as a couple or in a group. There is a more direct connection. For these reasons, it's been gaining importance in the world." 55

8 I asked her about the dance's importance amidst violence, conflict, and economic hardship. "Salsa is a refresher of human dignity. It overshadows inequity and discontent with sharp rhythms and the madness of love. It closes social distances because it requires people to embrace each other, bring them together with movements, and see the best in each other. It has a long cultural heritage of peace," she replied. 60

9 There is certainly joy and peace in the Salsa clubs, but does it extend everywhere, to areas where people live in the most desperate conditions? Can there be peace even in the hardest of places? To find out, I took a minibus up Medellín, which was the most violent city in the world in the 1990s. Today, it is enjoying the turnaround that comes with a diminished presence of aggressive drug dealers and the bustling construction of an efficient metro system connecting every corner of the city. Everything looks promising. 65

10 Colombia is a country that has bled, yet through it all, its people never lost their innocence and their resilience. Their happiness is predicated on that unshakable spirit and that commitment to warmth and fellowship and charitable views of people. To an outsider, it may seem naïve, but Colombians' steadfast happiness has been their most effective weapon in the war against the despair that they have been experiencing such as the civil wars, bombings and kidnappings. It has carried them to the edge of the final victory, where dreams of the peaceful country they so richly deserve might finally become a reality. 75

Adapted from Wallace, C. (2017, March 30). The world's happiest country? Retrieved from <http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20170328-the-worlds-happiest-country>

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Question 1: Contextual Clues (6 marks)

Instructions: *Provide a word from the reading passage for each definition below.*

- | | | |
|--|----------------|--------------------|
| Example: to position or put in an order | (paragraph 1) | word: ranks |
| a) usual and ordinary | (paragraph 2) | |
| b) suffered or tolerated | (paragraph 4) | |
| c) to put in great effort to achieve something | (paragraph 5) | |
| d) extreme passion and devotion | (paragraph 6) | |
| e) decreased or in a smaller number | (paragraph 9) | |
| f) misery and hopelessness | (paragraph 10) | |

Question 2: True or False (5 marks)

Instructions: *For each statement, write (T) if the statement is true and (F) if the statement is false.*

- a) The diverse celebrations that the Colombians enjoy was the deciding factor that helped the country to be ranked as the world's happiest country.
- b) The instability and unrest in Colombia have caused a decline in the number of international tourists visiting that country.
- c) The city of Cali is the hub for Salsa dancing in Colombia.
- d) The world's most violent city in the 1990s is now enjoying a measure of peace and joy.
- e) Happiness is the strongest "weapon" that the Colombians have to protect themselves from the rebels and guerrillas around them.

Question 3: Comprehension Questions (15 marks)

Instructions: *Answer the following questions.*

- a) Elaborate on the sordid social environment that the Colombians had. (1½ marks)
- b) Explain the "value system" (line 18) that the Colombians have. (1½ marks)

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- c) What is the main idea of paragraph 4? (1 mark)
- d) How have the Colombians responded to the continuous war and unrest that plague their country? (3 marks)
- e) Identify the “human connections and communal experience” (lines 38-39) that have helped the Colombians to maintain their resilience. (3 marks)
- f) Describe the characteristics of the Colombian Salsa, compared to other forms of dance. (3 marks)
- g) Why is Salsa significant in promoting peaceable relationships? (2 marks)

SECTION B: GRAMMAR [10 MARKS]

Instructions: *The following extract contains 10 errors in fragment, run-on, faulty parallelism and faulty modifier. Identify these errors and correct them as shown in the example.*

Example:

<u>No</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Error</u>	<u>Correction</u>
0	1	... China, their...	...China. However, their ...

Demands for Butlers by the Rich Chinese

Life can be rough in **China**, **their** lifestyle has been changing as people grow richer, travel and live abroad, and this has created a demand for polished, attentive service. A decade ago, very few Chinese people stayed in five-star hotels, now, many people have, and that has given them some understanding of what good service is. 1

Butler training schools and agencies have been doing business in China for more than a decade, but the number of recruits has grown sharply in recent years most butlers are Chinese, and many are women. Sanda University, a private college in Shanghai, has incorporated butler training into its hospitality programme. Many Chinese also learn how to be butlers in Europe. Furthermore, the founder of the Bespoke Bureau, Ms Sara Rahmani, which is a British company that finds domestic staff members for wealthy employers, said her company planned to open a school for butlers and domestic staff for the people in China this year. 5 10

The number of butlers in China is hard to determine. There may be hundreds or thousands. Especially in Beijing, Shanghai and the prosperous south. Ms Rahmani said that in 2007, her company found positions in China for 20 butlers; by 2015, had grown to 375, including 125 with families. Others reported similar growth. 15

Chinese employers often treat butlers as expensive all-purpose servants. Who should be on call 24 hours a day. Such mindset has violated the traditional idea of a butler as a respected manager of the household, Ms Liew, a butler, said her work was

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far more hectic than she imagined. Her daily routine included cleaning the sauna, 20
cinema, maintaining the cleanliness of the bowling alley and other rooms in a 32,000-
square-foot home. She feels that when work starts, there is no time at all to stop and
rest. It is a lot harder than working in a hotel.

Besides that, fearing that household servants could exploit sensitive 25
information, the pressure on their butlers is increased by their employers. Butlers are
supposed to have a deep knowledge of their employers' weaknesses, which are
traditionally recorded in a book. However, the worry that information could be used
to rob, extort or prosecuting them has discouraged many rich people from taking
butlers into their confidence.

Adapted from Buckley, C and Kan, K.(2017). Rich Chinese, inspired by 'Downton,' fuel demand for butlers.
Retrieved from https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/14/world/asia/rich-chinese-inspired-by-downton-fuel-demand-for-butlers.html?_r=0

SECTION C: WRITING [24 MARKS]

Instructions: *Write an essay of about 350 words on ONE of the topics below.*

- a) Nowadays, it is not an easy task to raise teenagers. Compose an exemplification essay on three instances where parents could set good examples for their children.
- b) Many people are fortunate enough to be brought up in a warm and happy family. However, there are people who are brought up in orphanages. What are the differences between being raised by family members and being raised by caregivers in orphanages?

End of Paper